



Kentucky Writing

A Cluster Leader Electronic Message

A Writing Update from the KDE Writing Consultants

October 2007

In this issue, please find information on

- *Kentucky Marker Papers* Project
- New training opportunities online
- Fall cluster leader training
- Upcoming conferences
- Writing resources
- Other announcements

Kentucky *Marker Papers* Project

Thanks for all who have helped us prepare for the *Marker Papers* Project by sending student writing samples. We have received many samples from teachers across the state. However, most of the samples we have received have been from the assessment grades—4th, 7th, and 12th grade students (most likely because of the portfolio assessment). The *Marker Papers*, however, span all of the grade levels P-12.

We would like to ask you to encourage teachers in your buildings to continue to submit student samples of writing, particularly from non-assessed grade levels. The only way we will have a complete set of the *Marker Papers* is if teachers submit them.

Teachers need not be cluster leaders or English teachers to submit to the project.

Copies of the invitations to submit are available at this [Web site](#). Thanks for helping continue to spread the word.

A selection committee is currently being formed and work on Phase II of the *Kentucky Marker Papers* will begin in late October.

Training Opportunities

2007 Writing Portfolio Update

A new training opportunity is online called “2007 Writing Portfolio Update.” The training will review what cluster leaders should know to get the school year off to a great start. The training will clarify activities that should be happening throughout the year, so that cluster leaders and scoring teams are ready when portfolio scoring occurs. Topics of discussion include an update from the 2007 portfolio audit, instructional issues, etc. This session is an online session and is available at <http://kde.webex.com>. Click on “recorded sessions” to locate “2007 Writing Portfolio Update.”

Fall Cluster Leader Training

Cluster leaders should receive an invitation from CTL regarding fall training very soon. The training window for sessions this fall is from October 24-November 9. Cluster leaders who choose to attend the fall training session will register at the closest regional location. **There will be four sessions at each location—two rooms with sessions from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm—local time.**

Fall cluster leader training is optional, but if you are planning to attend, you will be expected to attend the session in your region of the state.

The fall training session will be structured around a new DVD on writing instruction produced in collaboration with KDE and CTL. This DVD is a **data DVD**, so you will need to play it on your computer instead of a traditional DVD player. **Given the nature of the session, cluster leaders will not need to be divided into grade-level groups. If possible, please bring a laptop computer to your session.**

The DVD contains interviews with Kentucky teachers and students related to writing instruction. We hope that you will find it helpful in your own professional development and in training the teachers at your school.

Upcoming Conferences

[National Council of Teachers of English](#), New York City, **November 15-18, 2007**

"Mapping Diverse Literacies For the Twenty-First Century: Opportunities, Challenges, Promising New Directions"

[Kentucky Council of Teachers of English](#), Lexington, KY, Radisson Hotel, **February 1-2, 2008**

“Hats off to Literacy”

Deadline for Conference Proposals: November 1, 2007

[Kentucky Teaching Learning Conference](#), Louisville, KY, **March 5-7, 2008**

“Student Learning for the Twenty-first Century, Every Child, Every Day”

Deadline for Conference Proposals: October 31, 2007

Writing Resources

In this section, “Writing Resources,” we will bring you titles of resources we have found that may help you in the classroom.

This month, Depeka recommends

Strong, William. *Write For Insight, Empowering Content Area Learning, Grades 6-12*
Boston: Pearson, 2006.

Even though the title says grades 6-12, the book has many ideas for writing across the curriculum that could be adapted for the younger grade level students.

Lee Ann recommends,

Daniels, Harvey, Zemelman, Steven, and Nancy Steineke. *Content Area Writing*.
Portsmouth: Heinemann, 2007.

This book contains good advice for writing in the content areas overall, but it does an extra great job of examining writing-to-learn strategies in the content area classes.

Other Announcements

Measured Progress has indicated that audit results and reports will be available to audited schools in late fall after the regular assessment data is released.

Writing Resource Materials

Please bookmark this site. All of our writing resource and training materials are on this site.

CCEM Archives

For your convenience, Cluster Leader Electronic Messages are archived on our Writing Resources Web page on the KDE site.